

SITUATION REPORT NO. 02
INCIDENT NO. 2001- 087
DATE: August 9, 2001 TIME: 12:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Severe summer storm with high winds.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: As of 2:00 a.m. this morning, 12 people were treated for cuts at Altru Hospital in Grand Forks. Initial reports indicated the injuries were not serious.
3. DAMAGES: At approximately 8:30 p.m. on August 8, winds with velocities reaching 101 miles per hour (mph) tore through Grand Forks, causing severe damage. Wind speeds were recorded at 114 mph at the Grand Forks Air Force Base. In addition, 1.6 inches of rain pounded the city in a 20-minute downburst. An estimated 3,000 trees were damaged or destroyed along boulevards and private residences. Street debris has blocked 40 streets and has prevented emergency vehicles access to some areas of the city. An estimated 11,000 consumers are without power due to downed and damaged power lines. Street lights and traffic signals throughout the city are not functioning. Earliest estimates indicate 10 homes, one apartment building, and one business have been severely damaged or destroyed. Residential and commercial buildings throughout the city have sustained roof damage and broken windows from the wind and flying debris. Fallen trees and limbs have also compounded property damage and will continue to present public safety concerns. DOT reported that no routes are closed in the Grand Forks area this morning. No damage occurred on the system or at the district office in Grand Forks.

The Grand Forks Water Treatment Plant is operating on generator power but all three water intakes are without power, resulting in a limited supply. City lift stations will operate using backup power. Water restrictions have been imposed upon the residents.

High winds in the city of Fingal downed trees, damaged homes, and caused a complete power outage.

Devils Lake at Creel Bay has risen to a historic high this morning, over 1,448 feet. During the past 48 hours, more than one inch of rain fell directly on the lake. During the past week, the entire Devils Lake Basin received approximately one inch of rain, according to engineers with the N.D. State Water Commission. Heavy rains last month also contributed to high moisture levels. A reconnaissance flight indicated much of the storage in the basin is full. Water was flowing through the Jerusalem Coulee, between Stump and Devils Lake, at a rate of 35 cubic feet per second (cfs). Stump Lake measured 1,412.4 feet today.

The Nelson County area received high winds and heavy rainfall on August 8. Winds gusts were up to 35 to 60 mph. Branches ranging from six- to nine-inch diameter were broken in the Lakota area. Trees were uprooted and branches were broken in the Stump Lake area.

DOT reported that N.D. Highway 200 remains closed, from Hillsboro to the Minnesota border.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Local agencies include: aging services offices, public works departments, law enforcement agencies, communications centers, emergency management offices, fire and rescue, ambulance services, city and county commissions and administrative offices.

STATE: N.D. National Guard, State Radio Communications, N.D. Department of Human Services, the N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. Department of Transportation and N.D. Division of Emergency Management are providing assistance.

FEDERAL: The National Weather Service (NWS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are monitoring conditions.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army are teaming to provide food and drinks to emergency personnel. The Red Cross has established a mass care center in the Alerus Center.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor John Hoeven today will tour the city of Grand Forks and meet with local officials. He will be accompanied by Insurance Commissioner Jim Poolman, Adjutant General Michael J. Haugen and representatives of the Governor's Office, N.D. National Guard and N.D. Division of Emergency Management.

State agencies are supplying equipment to Grand Forks to assist with debris removal. The National Guard is providing one bucket truck, and the N.D. Department of Transportation (DOT) is sending three bucket trucks. Twenty-eight dump trucks will be sent to Grand Forks, 10 from the National Guard and 18 from DOT. The National Guard is supplying three clam loaders and one lift truck. All vehicles are in route to Grand Forks.

The North Dakota Attorney General's office is issuing public service announcements to alert storm victims in eastern North Dakota to the potential for consumer fraud. Information about potential disaster relief scams can be found on the Attorney General's home page, www.ag.state.nd.us/ndag.

The North Dakota Insurance Department has issued information for North Dakotans who sustained storm damages. The information, which includes steps for making insurance claims, can be found at the Insurance Department's home page, www.state.nd.us/ndins.

The North Dakota National Guard is continuing to assist the city of Hillsboro with debris removal.

The North Dakota State Electrical Board has contacted city officials in Grand Forks concerning needed resources. A representative of the State Board has identified 50 to 60 homes in Hillsboro requiring repair work by a North Dakota licensed contractor before lines can be energized.

The North Dakota Department of Human Services has dispatched outreach personnel to the city of Fingal in Barnes County and to the Cass County community of Alice to determine the needs of vulnerable citizens.

The North Dakota Forest Service plans to contact the city of Hillsboro to discuss reforestation of the city. The Forest Service can provide up to three staff members to inventory the city tree population to determine tree loss and damage, approximate value, potential planting sites and a list of recommended trees. The Forest Service has several cost share grant programs that could be utilized.

Until 2:00 a.m. August 9, the North Dakota Highway Patrol provided security in downed power line sites in Grand Forks.

Several utility service providers have personnel working in Grand Forks to identify and repair downed power lines.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No additional requests have been received.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Appropriate state and local emergency operations plans have been implemented.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director